

Rheinisches Bildarchiv

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Stadt Köln - Rheinisches Bildarchiv
Kattenbug 18-24, 50667 Köln

Sprechzeiten

Montag - Donnerstag 9.00 - 12.00 Uhr, 14.00 - 16.00 Uhr
Freitag 9.00 - 12.00 Uhr

KVB Haltestelle: Appellhofplatz

17.04.2019

**“Ola Kolehmainen: Cathedral of Light - composed mixed media photography”
Exhibition of the Rheinische Bildarchiv at Kaune Contemporary**

Kaune Contemporary
Gereonskloster 12 (Kapelle)
Köln-Innenstadt

The Rheinische Bildarchiv presents the exhibition "Ola Kolehmainen: Cathedral of Light" from April 12 to June 2, 2019 during the Photoszene Festival 2019 as part of the project "Artist meets Archive", initiated and organized by the Internationale Photoszene Köln.

The Finnish artist Ola Kolehmainen (born 1964 in Helsinki, Finland, lives in Berlin) explores the duality of the medium of photography as a haptic object with its very own aesthetics on the one hand and as an information carrier on the other, based on historical photographs of the Rheinische Bildarchiv (RBA).

The exhibition shows new photographic art works, in which Ola Kolehmainen processes images of sacred interior and exterior spaces, an item he has already dealt with intensively in his projects of recent years. Kolehmainen created them during his artist residency at the RBA as part of the Photoszene project "Artist Meets Archive". The aspects of light, space and color are decisive to him. He is particularly interested in the "old light" and the interplay of light and space in the photographic or graphic tradition. He questions the historical room-light conditions and processes them using traditional analogue and digital photo processes. At the center of the exhibition is a spacious multi-part installation of Cologne Cathedral. Kolehmainen's works on sacral architecture mirror his work about "treasure art".

In his current work, he has extended his mode of operation, which has already been tested in the RBA since 2015/2016, from the investigation of the aesthetic values of glass and film negatives to the labeled prints of the positive archive. He focuses on the visible characteristics of archiving, such as packing, phototypical aging processes as well as the manipulations of the photographers on the negative by retouching, taping and paint jobs.

The archival fonds of the Rheinische Bildarchiv are usually perceived as documentary photographs for the sake of the depicted motifs. But tangible objects - for example, retouched glass negative plates - are significant evidence of the history of photography. Ola



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Kolehmainens approach honors both aspects in a very exciting way. He breaks the usual conventional perception and motivates a conscious vision. In his works of art, he transforms the historical records from a shadowy existence to the limelight of an artistic survey of its various qualities.

The exhibition is supported by the Finland Institute (www.finnland-institut.de).

The exhibition is open from Friday, April 12th, 2019, to June 2nd, 2019. The presentation of the book to the exhibition will be on Saturday, 4th May 2019, at 4 pm.

The exhibition is open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10am to 6pm, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 am to 1pm and Saturdays from 1pm to 6pm. Further opening times and guided tours can be arranged by e-mail to rba@rbakoeln.de. The guided tours present the works of art and explain the background to their creation on the basis of historical photographs from the Rheinische Bildarchiv. The tours are also announced on www.museenkoeln.de and on the Facebook page of the RBA. They start in the Galerie Kaune Contemporary and continue after a walk into the Rheinische Bildarchiv and take about 90 minutes.

For further information please contact: Dr. Johanna Gummlich, Rheinisches Bildarchiv, by phone: 0221 / 221-24188, email: rba@rbakoeln.de and on the Internet at www.rheinisches-bildarchiv.de.